



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

September 2, 2009
For Immediate Release
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Environmental Analysis for the Reintroduction of Bison to Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Available for Public Review

Preserve Superintendent, Wendy Lauritzen, announced today that the Bison Management Plan / Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Reintroduction of Bison to a portion of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve will be available for a 30-day public review beginning September 2, 2009.

The primary purposes of the plan are to: 1) implement actions identified through public comment and called for in the Preserve's General Management Plan; 2) restore and conserve a keystone native species; 3) improve and sustain the ecological health and biological diversity of the Preserve; 4) restore and conserve a cultural and ethnographic resource; and 5) increase visitor satisfaction and experiences at the Preserve.

In 2000, the National Park Service completed a General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (GMP) for the 10,894-acre Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. While the GMP called for reintroducing bison (*Bison bison*) to the Preserve, it did not include a detailed strategy for the reintroduction. This Bison Management Plan / Environmental Assessment—developed in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), who is the primary landowner within the Preserve boundary—describes four alternatives for reintroducing and managing bison at the Preserve.

The public is invited to attend an open house-style meeting to ask questions or comment on the preferred alternative. The open house will be held on September 18, 2009, from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM at the

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preserve's historic ranch headquarters (in the stone barn) located off state highway 177 two miles north of Strong City.

Copies of the document may be obtained by visiting the preserve's website at www.nps.gov/tapr, by calling the preserve's administrative office at 620-273-6034, or by coming to the administrative office located at 226 Broadway, Cottonwood Falls. Written comments regarding the document may be mailed to P.O. Box 585, 226 Broadway, Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845 or emailed to tapr_superintendent@nps.gov and will be accepted until October 1, 2009.

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